

COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 52B-9398-B	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Area of VORKUTA			
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050 AISW (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 8-9 Mar 1954	DATE OF INFORMATION Jun 52 to Jun 53		EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) SHIRLEY A. KOLPIN, Lt. Col. USAF		SOURCE 212606	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

I. PREAMBLE:

From Jun 1952 until Jun 1953 SOURCE was interned in the penal labor camps (Pts 18 and 24) as a civilian prisoners in the area of VORKUTA (6731 N/6359 E) and worked during that time as a miner in the coal mines (Pts 22 and 29). As he was continuously under close guard he had only a restricted opportunity to make his observations. He observed mostly the special installations only from a distance and was unable to give detailed information about them. All information based on selfobservations, unless otherwise indicated.

II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ref is made to Incl 1, this Rpt, a Memory Sketch of the Area of VORKUTA, on which SOURCE identified the following points:

1. COAL MINE. This was coal mine # 40, but SOURCE was unable to give detailed information, because he never entered it.
2. RR SIDING. SRR, RSG, branched off from the main line (Pt 9) and led to the individual coal mines within that area. No details. He regularly observed freight trains loaded with coal. No further information available.
3. ASSEMBLY CAMP. Non-permanent.
4. RR BRIDGE. As SOURCE observed this bridge from a distance only he was unable to give detailed technical information. It was a steel plate girder construction which rested upon an unknown number of steel trusses. Length, width and clearance unknown. As far as he could observe this bridge was continuously guarded by Russian soldiers.
5. VORKUTA RIVER. About 100 m wide, depth unknown, flat earthen banks. From Sep to May the river was frozen. No flood observed. Not navigable.
6. AIRFIELD. Knows only the existence of this field. Observations made from a distance of about 1 km. He observed twice a week the landing of a two engined unidentified Russian transporter and daily about 10 Russian fighters of the type PO-2. No other types observed. SOURCE was unable to give information about the field itself.
7. PENAL CAMP. Non-permanent.
8. VORKUTA. This place covered an area of about 2 km in diameter and consisted of irregularly scattered about one story and two-story brick and wooden structures with gable roofs covered with shingles and tarpaper and sheet metal. The town was continuously being enlarged in the southeastern direction. The roads within consisted of dirt roads only, about 5 m wide with no sidewalks. SOURCE observed no sewage disposal system, no industrial installations. Town was supplied with electricity by the thermal power plant (Pt 13). Number of population unknown, consisted mostly of

Memory Sketch of Area of VORKUTA p. 11

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exiled peoples (VOLGA-Germans).

9. RR LINE. DRR, RSG. Non-electrified, so-called "Northern RR system" connecting VORKUTA with MOSKVA (5545 N/3735 E) and LENINGRAD (5955 N/3015 E). Was built upon a 5 m high earthen embankment good conditioned, rails were fastened by bolts, not guarded. Daily the so-called "Northern Express" arrived on this line. Beside this passenger train, the line continuously bore heavy freight train traffic (coal) into southern direction.

10. MILITARY BARRACKS. Consisted of several smaller one story brick structures with gable roofs, covering an area of 500 m square. No details about troops. Fenced in by barbed wire, continuously guarded by Russian soldiers, armed with sub-machine guns.

11. COAL MINE. So-called "KAPITAL" Mine. Manpower about 1,000 prisoners. Output unknown. Not entered, no details.

12. ROAD. 10 m wide dirt road, connecting the town with the individual coal mines, located north, poor condition.

13. THERMAL POWER PLANT. Consisted of a one-story concrete structure and several smaller brick structures, covering a complex of about 500 m square. Two steel smokestacks protruded about 5 m above the flat concrete roof. Equipment and cap unknown, supplied the area of VORKUTA with electric power. No further information available. SOURCE himself never entered it. Fenced-in by barbed wire and continuously guarded by male Russian militia guards, armed with rifles.

14. RR LINE, SRR, RSG, non-electrified. Led in northern direction to the mining area and was used for coal shipments only. According to rumors amongst the prisoners this line led up to the coast. No further details.

15. FACTORY. Entirely new constructed in 1952, still under constr when SOURCE left (Jun 1953). Consisted of a one-story brick structure, 80 x 50 x 20 m. The roof was not yet constructed. Purpose unknown. Fenced-in and guarded by Russian soldiers.

16. BRICK YARD. Consisted of a two-story brick structure and several smaller one-story wooden structures with gable roofs covered with sheet metal. Installation covered an area of 100 m by 80 m. Already in operation. Produced bricks for the individual construction sites. Guarded by male militia guards.

A) A 40 m high brick smokestack of a diameter of 5 m at the base.

17. PENAL CAMP. For criminal prisoners only. Non-permanent.

18. PENAL CAMP # 15. For political prisoners who worked in the coal mine (Pt 22). Strength about 3,000 male prisoners (all nations), amongst them was a former US soldier, Sgt WILLIAMS, who came from MISSOURI and was captured by VP (Peoples Police) on accidental entry into East Germany in 1951. The camp consisted of 46 brick structures with gable roofs covered with sheet metal and covered an area of 300 m by 400 m.

19. PENAL CAMP. For female political prisoners. Non-permanent.

20. MILITARY BARRACKS. Identical to Pt 10.

21. AA GUN POSITION. SOURCE observed this AA gun position only from the penal camp (Pt 18) and was unable to give details. He observed about four AA guns of unknown type and caliber. The area was flat, guns were dug into the ground and mostly covered by nets. No further details.

22. COAL MINE. This was mine # 4, manpower about 500 prisoners in one shift, three shifts daily, output about 1,800 tons per shift. Coal was mostly shipped to LENINGRAD. Quality of coal unknown, it was soft coal only.

23. MILITARY BARRACKS. Identical to Pt 10.

24. PENAL CAMP # 7. Strength 4,000 male prisoners. Non-permanent.

25. NEW PENAL CAMP. Not yet occupied, for the workers of the new thermal power plant (Pt 27).

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Consisted of earthen bunkers only.

26. RR BRIDGE. Identical to Pt 4.

27. NEW THERMAL POWER PLANT. Still under construction in summer 1953. Size unknown. Observed only from a distance of about 800 m.

28. PENAL CAMP. Non-permanent.

29. COAL MINE # 7. Manpower about 600 male political prisoners per shift, operated three shifts daily. Output per shift about 2,000 tons of soft coal. Mostly shipped to LENINGRAD and MOSKVA.

30. COAL MINE # 12. Not entered. No details.

31. COAL MINE # 14. Identical to Pt 30.

32. COAL MINE # 16. Identical to Pt 30.

33. COAL MINE # 29. Identical to Pt 30.

34. COAL MINE # 6. Identical to Pt 30.

35. COAL MINE # 8. Identical to Pt 30.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

Area was slightly hilly, with no vegetation at all. Summer lasted from July to August, with temperatures up to 30 centigrades above zero. From Sep to May was winter and night with temperatures up to 60 centigrades below zero, during the storm periods (Feb to May). Within that area lived pearl workers only, and about 2,000 "free" VOLGA Germans. Typical coal mine area, no other important industries.

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